procedural requirements involved, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time-frame for these amendments.

Cheating in the name of jobs abroad

† 1265. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad has come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the said gang; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Government do not have any specific information about any gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad. However, sporadic complaints against unregistered agents/individuals are received in this regard. As and when such complaints are received, show-cause notices are issued and complaints are lodged with the local police authorities for taking action against the unscrupulous agents/individuals. The State Governments/Union Territories have been requested to issue guidelines right down to the police station level to maintain strict vigil against nefarious activities of unscrupulous agents. In case of complaints against Registered Recruiting Agents, show-cause notices are issued to the Agents and in case the reply is not found covincing, the licence of the Recruiting Agent is Suspended/Cancelled.

Increase in Unemployment

1266. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of unemployed persons during the year 2000-2001 in comparison to 1999 and the details of skilled,

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

semi-skilled and educated males and females who are unemployed, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have contemplated to control the increasing unemployment; and

(c) if so, what are the concrete steps taken by Government to control this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Total number of jobseckers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the country as on December, 1998 and December 1999 was of the order 400.9 and 403.7 lakh respectively. Out of these 278 and 287 lakh were educated (10th Standard and above) State-wise figures are given in the Statement *(See* below). State-wise skill distribution of jobscekers is not maintained. However, at the All India level, majority of the jobseekers are with general education.

(b) and (c) The approach to the Tenth Five Year Plan focuses on gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention will be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential. To ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will also be placed on skill development.

Statement

Number of educated (10th Standard and above) jobseekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges at the end of 1998 and 1999.

(In thousands)

s. No	State/Union Territories	Number at the end of 1998			Number at the end of 1999		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(A) STATES						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1375.0	647.2	2022.2	1867.8	684.9	2552.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.3	0.8	3.1	2.1	0.8	2.9
3.	Assam	635.8	296.7	932.5	743.6	302.0	1045.6
4.	Bihar	2280.3	202.5	2482.8	2216.5	199.6	2416.1
5.	Goa	53.1	30.1	83.2	47.9	31.6	79.5
6.	Gujarat	577.7	121.0	698.7	543.3	110.8	654.1
7.	Haryana	463.0	99.5	562.5	504.9	113.7	618.6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	333.6	160.9	494.5	373.6	165.6	539.2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	57.3	14.9	72.2	63.0	15.0	78.0
10	Karnataka	925.1	292.4	1217.5	945.3	320.5	1265.8
11	Kerala	1182.3	1566.7	2749.0	1309.9	1773.4	3083.3
12	Madhya Pradesh	1656.2	370.0	2026.2	1657.6	381.7	2039.3
13	Maharashtra	2424.7	619.5	3044.2	2420.2	645.8	3066.0
14	Manipur	144.0	74.6	218.6	184.8	96.5	281.3
15	Meghalaya	10.1	8.8	18.9	9.9	9.7	19.6
16	Mizoram	20.3	14.0	34.3	25.1	18.2	43.3
17	Nagaland	12.5	6.7	19.2	13.3	6.7	20.0
18	Orissa	597.8	145.7	743.5	610.7	145.9	756.6
19	Punjab	277.2	111.8	389.0	264.5	104.6	369.1
20	Rajasthan	552.8	69.4	622.2	532.0	61.7	593.7
21	Sikkim*	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	Tamilnadu	1820.7	1032.1	2852.8	1715.6	1079.7	2795.3
23	Tripura	74.5	35.0	109.5	72.2	26.0	98.2
24	Uttar Pradesh	1769.5	238.4	2007.9	1772.3	222.6	1994.9
25	West Bengal	2502.4	847.6	3350.0	2370.8	894.9	3265.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(B) UNION TERRITORIES						
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.3	3.3	8.6	5.3	3.2	8.5
31	Chandigarh	48.4	U.5	59.9	44.0	18.7	62.7
32.	Dadra & Nagar HaveU	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.4	1.2
33	Delhi	616.5	252.5	869.0	557.7	255.5	813.2
34	Daman & Diu	2.6	0.9	3.5	2.6	1.0	3.6
35	Lakshadweep	1.7	—	1.7	1.7	—	1.7
36	Pondicherry	57.0	33.6	90.6	57.0	33.6	90.6
	Total	20480.6	7308.3	27788.9	20936.1	7724.2	28660.3

NOTE: *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Child Labour

1267. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court on January 24, 2002 referred to the fact that 44 to 100 million children are forced to work in hazardous industries, and directed that the "All India evil" be banned to keep the promise made to "the children under the Constitution"; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to carry out direction of the Apex Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29th March, 2001 directed the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to prepare a scheme taking into consideration all that would be needed for the welfare of child labour. The Scheme was to be prepared within three months from the date of the order.

On 24th January 2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court granted an extension of 8 weeks for finalization of the scheme. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has prepared a "Scheme for